

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is set forth below. The ensuing listing of the claims replaces all prior claims listings.

1. (Currently twice amended) A semiconductor device, comprising:  
at least one bond pad positioned on a surface of a semiconductor ~~device~~ die adjacent an edge thereof; and  
a layer comprising polymer on at least a portion of said surface, said layer having a notch formed therein which exposes at least a portion of said at least one bond pad.
2. (Previously Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein an edge portion of said layer adjacent said edge of said semiconductor die tapers from a surface of said layer toward said edge of said semiconductor die.
3. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 2, wherein said edge portion of said layer comprises a bevel.
4. (Previously Twice Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein said notch is tapered from a surface of said layer toward said surface of said semiconductor die.
5. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein said layer covers substantially all of said surface.
6. (Previously Twice Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein said notch substantially surrounds said at least one bond pad.
7. (Previously Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 1, including a plurality of bond pads.

8. (Previously Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 7, wherein at least some of said bond pads are located adjacent said edge.

9. (Previously Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 8, wherein said layer includes regions extending laterally between adjacent bond pads of said at least some bond pads.

10. Canceled without prejudice or disclaimer

11. (Previously Amended) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein said polymer comprises a photoimageable material.

12. (Previously Amended) A protective layer for a semiconductor die, comprising: a substantially planar member comprising polymer; and at least one notch formed adjacent an edge of said substantially planar member, said at least one notch being configured to expose at least a portion of a corresponding bond pad of the semiconductor die upon positioning the protective layer over an active surface of the semiconductor die.

13. (Previously Amended) The protective layer of claim 12, further comprising a bevel along said edge.

14. (Original) The protective layer of claim 12, wherein at least one edge of said at least one notch is beveled.

15. Canceled without prejudice or disclaimer

16. (Previously Amended) The protective layer of claim 12, wherein said polymer comprises a photoimageable material.

17. (Original) The protective layer of claim 12, including a plurality of notches located along said edge.

18. (Previously Amended) The protective layer of claim 12, wherein said substantially planar member is configured to substantially cover said active surface of the semiconductor die upon assembly therewith.

19. (Previously Twice Amended) The protective layer of claim 12, wherein said substantially planar member is configured to cover only a portion of a surface of the semiconductor die adjacent an edge thereof proximate to which at least one bond pad is located upon assembly of the protective layer with the semiconductor die.

20. (Original) The protective layer of claim 12, wherein said at least one notch is formed in said edge.

21. (Currently amended three times) The protective layer of claim 12, wherein said at least one notch is configured to substantially surround the corresponding bond pad upon assembly of the protective layer with the semiconductor device die.